



**STATE OF TENNESSEE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE**  
**STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE**  
**FIRE SERVICE AND CODES ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY**  
2161 UNIONVILLE-DEASON ROAD  
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TO: **Tennessee Fire Service**

DATE: January 10, 2005

SUBJECT: Update on TFACA's Fire Service Training Program

The Tennessee Fire Service & Codes Enforcement Academy's (TFACA) Fire Service Program has a busy training calendar through the end of the fiscal year (June 2005). We are projecting a significant increase in the student contact hours this year over last year's through on-campus and field extension programs.

An interim schedule for next fiscal year's on-campus courses is enclosed. This interim schedule provides fire and emergency response organizations time for developing their in-house training schedules for the next fiscal year. In addition to on-campus programs, TFACA will continue providing training across the state by request through our Field Extension Program. TFACA is your state fire academy and we urge you to take advantage of our diverse range of programs designed to meet basic to advanced training needs. To register or inquire about available on-campus courses, contact TFACA Registrar Kay Hale at: 1-800-747-8868 or 931-294-4111. On-line registration is also available through the Academy's website. For inquiries or scheduling regarding field delivered training courses, please contact your local TFACA Regional Coordinator/Fire Instructor, or Regional Fire Supervisor Jerry Crews at 931-294-4153.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Tennessee Weekend at the National Fire Academy, November 19 – 21, 2004, was a great success. There were 183 Firefighters from all across the state in attendance. Because this was the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tennessee's participation, each student received a commemorative soft side brief case and all were treated to an anniversary cake at Saturday's lunch at the NFA. Classes ranged from *Training Operations in Small Departments* to the *Executive Skills Series: Managing and Leading Change*. Our state's Weekend at the NFA is a collaborative effort of the TFACA, the TN Weekend Committee, and related state fire service organizations. Those organizations are the Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association, the Tennessee Firemen's Association, the Tennessee Public Fire & Life Safety Educators Association, and the Tennessee Advisory Committee on Arson. We greatly appreciate their cooperation and assistance in this educational event, and also the student scholarships many of these organizations provide to selected students attending the state weekend.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Domestic Preparedness/FEMA in conjunction with the Tennessee Fire Service & Codes Enforcement Academy will be conducting *Assistance to Firefighters 2005 Grant Workshops* across the state in February. These workshops will help your department in understanding the federal grants available to fire departments and how to complete the necessary paperwork to apply for them. In 2004 under the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, 151 Tennessee Fire Departments received grants with a state total of over \$11.3 million. This will provide a significant opportunity for these fire departments to improve or increase their emergency response capabilities. I urge

each department to send someone to one of the workshops to bring back this valuable information. More information on these workshops is enclosed.

The 7<sup>th</sup> *Annual Smoky Mountain Weekend* training event in Sevierville, TN is on-track for March 5 & 6, 2005. This educational weekend is a joint training opportunity hosted by the Sevier County Fire Chiefs' Association, Sevier County Fire Training Officers' Association and the TFACA. The registrations have been outstanding, and we are anticipating a completely full program with more than 1000 students participating in the classes. The TFACA Fire Service Staff and I look forward to seeing your department's representatives at this educational event.

The next *Recruit/Firefighter 1* Academy is scheduled for March 28 through May 20, 2005. There are still available student openings in this course. This program provides a complete recruit firefighter training program that includes certification testing by the TN Commission on Firefighting at the end of the course.

The TFACA and the Tennessee Commission on Firefighting have worked closely together over the past several years to improve and coordinate fire service training and certification initiatives within the state. As part of this effort, the F.F. Commission has approved many courses offered by the TFACA as meeting initial training requirements or fulfilling practical testing requirements. Some of these courses include: *Recruit/Firefighter 1*, *Fire Officer 1*, and *Fire Instructor 1*. The F.F. Commission recently approved the Academy's 22 hour *Live Firefighting* course as meeting the live fire practical requirements that are now a part of the testing and certification requirements for Firefighter 1 & 2. In addition, a Commission Field Representative is now based at the Academy, to best facilitate the testing of Academy students as they complete the approved courses. The TFACA and the F.F. Commission will continue to work together in the future to better serve the fire service of Tennessee.

In an effort to better serve the needs of our students and organizations, on-line registration is now available for on-campus courses. Students can complete the registration and accommodations form and submit it directly to the TFACA Registrar. The training schedule is also available on-line and is updated as courses are added to the schedule. The TFACA website can be found at [www.state.tn.us/commerce/sfm/tfaca](http://www.state.tn.us/commerce/sfm/tfaca). I encourage you to bookmark the site and check it often to stay abreast of the latest training and events that TFACA has to offer.

We appreciate the continuing support of the state's fire and codes organizations, and most importantly you, the fire service of the State of Tennessee. We look forward to continue working together to improve the fire service of Tennessee through education and training.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Fire Service Program Staff or me at 1-800-747-8868 or 931-294-4111.

Sincerely,

David E. Hedrick  
Director Fire Service Programs

Enclosure